the Unstarred Question NO. 673 on 28.11.1991, before the Government could notify the prices of ceiling packs, on the basis of reduced prices of bulk drugs, there was change in the exchange rate of rupee against major foreign currencies. As a result, prices of nine out of eleven bulk drugs were revised upwards. In four cases, the revised prices were more than the pre-revised prices. The prices of ceiling packs of formulations, based on other bulk drugs, were reduced wherever necessary, based on the prevailing packaging material ceilings and norms for conversion/packing charges.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

Decision in the case of M/s. Hoechst

2631. SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3084 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th August, 1992 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after getting date from the company and giving a final hearing to the company, no order has been passed in the case of Hoechst;

(b) whether it is a fact that the case is being passed from one department to the other;

(c) what are the departments being considered and on what issue; and

(d) when was the case referred to each department during the last three years and what is the present position of it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) As per the time bound schedule framed by Bombay High Court finalising the liability, giving the hearing to the Company and passing a final speaking order, the process of giving data by the company and giving the details to M/s. Hoechst is almost over. The determination of liability is in progress and will be communicated to the company soon and thereafter as per Bombay High Court's direction the company will be given a hearing and a speaking order will be passed.

(b) No Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Calcutta High Court's decision in favour of M/s. Carews

2632. SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3084 given in the Rajya Sabha on 6th August, 1992 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry have lost case against M/s. Carews in the Calcutta High Court for non-follow up of the matter;

(b) what is the judgement of the High Court and what action has been taken against the judgement;

(c) whether it is a fact that this company belongs to Mullaya Group;

(d) if so, what are the reasons for not taking any action for operating without permission under I (D and R) Act and also marketing other products without price approval; and

(e) what are the names of such products and since when each is being marketed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Calcutta High Court in the judgement dated 26th June, 1992 has directed the Government to accord necessary exemption to the petitioner's product 'Combiflam' as per Notification No. S.O. 719 (E) dated 21.7.1988. Government filed stay petition/memorandum of appeal against the above judgement. Though a copy of the judgement has not been received so far, it is learnt that the Order dated 26.6.1992 has been stayed by the Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court.

(c) and (d) The Department of Company Affairs to whom the matter was referred for investigation is yet to take a final view in the matter.

(e) The requisite information to the extent possible shall be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

Production of Betamethasone-DI-Sodium Phosphate by M/s. Glaxo

2633. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:
SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Glaxo is purchasing large quantities of Betamethasone and its salts from other parties at a price less than the notified price;

(b) if so, what is the quantity of each purchased from January, 1992 alongwith the source and price, consignment-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that they are purchasing and also converting purchased Betamethasone to Betamethasone-DI-Sodium Phosphate which is exempted from price control;

(d) if so, the quantity converted during the same period;

(e) whether it is a fact that the company is making substantial profits in India and abroad by assisting in getting imported raw materials in this manner; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (f) the required details would be collected and laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Production of AZT for Treatment of AIDS

2634. SMT. SATYA BAHIN:
SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that AZT required for AIDS is being produced in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the companies and the price at which the product is being marketed;

(c) whether it is a fact that the same is being imported, if so, the name of the company and the selling price of each pack of each strength;

(d) whether it is a fact that imported formulation is exempted from excise and custom duty where as indigenous product, both bulk and finished, attracts excise duty;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) what is the comparative price of each strength of imported and indigenous of the drug; and

(g) what steps have been taken to boost indigenous production of it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) to the extent information is available, M/s. Cipla has started the production of AZT required for AIDS with the help of technology developed by Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad. However, no licence has been issued by the Govt. for the production of this drug. Regarding pricing, no information is available whether the product has been launched in the market or not.

(c) and (f) The imports of drugs by individual companies is not being monitored by this Ministry.

(d) (e) and (g) The imported formulations are exempt from excise and customs duties. The request for exemption from excise duty for Bulk Drug AZT and its formulations has been received recently,